



National Rivers Authority
Information Centre
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THE SEVERN BORE

IN 1995



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In common with a few other rivers, a tidal wave, or bore, occurs in the lower reaches of the River Severn during high tides. For a bore to form, a considerable rise in tide is needed in a converging channel with a rising bed, i.e. funnel-shaped.

The Severn Estuary experiences the second highest tide anywhere in the world with a range which can be in excess of 14.5 metres (47.6 feet). Under the most favourable conditions, the Severn Bore may reach two metres (six feet) in height. Opposing winds or high freshwater levels can considerably reduce the height and delay the time of arrival, whereas a following wind can increase the height and advance the time.

The average speed of the bore is approximately 16 kilometres (10 miles) per hour. The

true phenomenon does not occur upstream of Gloucester because of the presence of weirs on the twin armed channel near the city.

High or spring tides occur on several days in each lunar cycle throughout the year and the following schedule lists only those which may result in spectacular bores.

Times are necessarily approximate and can vary by as much as 30 minutes either way. It is advisable to arrive early, particularly on weekends or holidays when local traffic congestion can be severe.

The three preferred viewing points are shown on the map.

The view point, adjoining land and accesses at Minsterworth are all privately owned. Please keep strictly to the public footpath along the riverbank. A large bore will often attract large crowds of viewers. Please respect the resident population, particularly at Minsterworth. Park your car sensibly so as not to cause obstruction on either the main road or the narrow side roads. Also take care not to damage property or roadside verges.

While not so spectacular, the incoming tide and nascent bore can be seen in the upper estuary at such places as Epney, Newnham and Fretherne, where times are 20, 60 and 85 minutes before Minsterworth respectively. High tide is approximately one hour

after the bore has passed, so take particular care where you park your vehicle.

Further information can be obtained from "The Severn Bore" by F W Rowbotham (published by David and Charles). This book is now out of print but can be obtained at a local library.



THE SEVERN BORE

MONTH	DATE	MINSTERWORTH	STONEBENCH	OVER BRIDGE	PROSPECT	
JANUARY	Sun 1	07.31 19.57	07.41 20.07	08.06 20.32	* *	
	Mon 2	08.18 20.43	08.28 20.53	08.53 21.18	** **	
	Tues 3	09.03 21.29	09.13 21.39	09.38 22.04	*** **	
	Wed 4	09.48 22.11	09.58 22.21	10.23 22.46	** *	
	Thurs 5	10.29	10.39	11.04	*	
	Tues 31	08.08 20.31	08.18 20.41	08.43 21.06	** **	
	FEBRUARY	Wed 1	08.50 21.11	09.00 21.21	09.25 21.46	*** **
Thurs 2		09.29 21.50	09.39 22.00	10.04 22.25	*** **	
Fri 3		10.07 22.24	10.17 22.34	10.42 22.59	** *	
Sat 4		10.39	10.49	11.14	*	
Fri 17		09.01 21.24	09.11 21.34	09.36 21.59	* *	
Sat 18		09.38 21.59	09.48 22.09	10.13 22.34	** *	
Sun 19		10.15	10.25	10.50	*	
MARCH		Wed 1	07.53 20.13	08.03 20.23	08.28 20.48	* *
		Thurs 2	08.31 20.50	08.41 21.00	09.06 21.25	** **
	Fri 3	09.07 21.25	09.17 21.35	09.42 22.00	*** **	
	Sat 4	09.41 21.56	09.51 22.06	10.16 22.31	** *	
	Sun 5	10.12	10.22	10.47	*	
	Fri 17	08.03 20.25	08.13 20.35	08.38 21.00	* *	
	Sat 18	08.40 21.02	08.50 21.12	09.15 21.37	** **	
	Sun 19	09.19 21.40	09.29 21.50	09.54 22.15	*** **	
	Mon 20	09.58 22.17	10.08 22.27	10.33 22.52	** *	
	Fri 31	09.07 21.23	09.17 21.33	09.42 21.58	* *	
	APRIL	Sat 1	09.40 21.56	09.50 22.06	10.15 22.31	* *
		Sun 2	10.13 22.27	10.23 22.37	10.48 23.02	* *
		Sat 15	08.37 21.00	08.47 21.10	09.12 21.35	* **
Sun 16		09.18 21.40	09.28 21.50	09.53 22.15	** ***	
Mon 17		10.00 22.21	10.10 22.31	10.35 22.56	*** ***	
Tues 18		10.43 23.02	10.53 23.12	11.18 23.37	** *	
MAY		Sun 14	08.12 20.36	08.22 20.46	08.47 21.11	* **
		Mon 15	08.58 21.21	09.08 21.31	09.33 21.56	** ***
	Tues 16	09.44 22.05	09.54 22.15	10.19 22.40	** ***	
	Wed 17	10.30 22.51	10.40 23.01	11.05 23.26	** **	
	Thurs 18	11.16	11.26	11.51	*	
	JUNE	Mon 12	20.17	20.27	20.52	*
Tues 13		08.42 21.06	08.52 21.16	09.17 21.41	* **	
Wed 14		09.31 21.53	09.41 22.03	10.06 22.28	** ***	
Thurs 15		10.19 22.40	10.29 22.50	10.54 23.15	** **	
Fri 16		11.06 23.26	11.16 23.36	11.41	* *	
Sat 17		-	-	00.01	*	

Approximate times of arrival. These are real times and have allowed for BST when in force.

Key:
 * Small
 ** Medium
 *** Fairly Large
 **** Large

Continued

MONTH	DATE	MINSTERWORTH	STONEBENCH	OVER BRIDGE	PROSPECT
JULY	Wed 12	20.55	21.05	21.30	**
	Thurs 13	09.20	09.30	09.55	*
		21.42	21.52	22.17	***
	Fri 14	10.07	10.17	10.42	**
		22.28	22.38	23.03	***
	Sat 15	10.52	11.02	11.27	**
		23.11	23.21	23.46	***
Sun 16	11.33	11.43	12.08	*	
	23.52	-	-	*	
Mon 17	-	00.02	00.27	*	
AUGUST	Thurs 10	20.44	20.54	21.19	**
	Fri 11	09.08	09.18	09.43	*
		21.29	21.39	22.04	***
	Sat 12	09.51	10.01	10.26	**
		22.10	22.20	22.45	***
	Sun 13	10.32	10.42	11.17	**
		22.51	23.01	23.26	***
Mon 14	11.11	11.21	11.46	*	
	23.27	23.37	-	*	
Tues 15	-	-	00.02	*	
SEPTEMBER	Fri 8	20.30	20.40	21.05	**
	Sat 9	08.52	09.02	09.27	*
		21.11	21.21	21.46	***
	Sun 10	09.31	09.41	10.06	**
		21.49	21.59	22.24	***
	Mon 11	10.07	10.17	10.42	**
		22.26	22.36	23.01	***
	Tues 12	10.43	10.53	11.18	*
		22.59	23.09	23.34	*
	Mon 25	21.21	21.31	21.56	*
	Tues 26	09.41	09.51	10.16	*
	21.58	22.08	22.33	**	
Wed 27	10.18	10.28	10.53	*	
	22.35	22.45	23.10	*	
OCTOBER	Sat 7	20.09	20.19	20.44	*
	Sun 8	08.30	08.40	09.05	*
		20.48	20.58	21.23	**
	Mon 9	09.06	09.16	09.41	*
		21.24	21.34	21.59	**
	Tues 10	09.40	09.50	10.15	*
		21.59	22.09	22.34	**
	Wed 11	10.14	10.24	10.49	*
		22.31	22.41	23.06	*
	Tues 24	07.40	07.50	08.15	*
		19.58	20.08	20.33	**
	Wed 25	08.18	08.28	08.53	**
		20.37	20.47	21.12	***
	Thurs 26	08.58	09.08	09.33	**
	21.19	21.29	21.54	**	
Fri 27	09.39	09.49	10.14	*	
	22.01	22.11	22.36	*	
NOVEMBER	Wed 22	07.15	07.25	07.50	*
		19.37	19.47	20.12	**
	Thurs 23	07.58	08.08	08.33	**
		20.21	20.31	20.56	**
	Fri 24	08.42	08.52	09.17	***
		21.06	21.16	21.41	**
	Sat 25	09.28	09.38	10.03	**
	21.53	22.03	22.28	*	
Sun 26	10.12	10.22	10.47	*	
DECEMBER	Thurs 21	19.19	19.29	20.04	*
	Fri 22	07.43	07.53	08.18	**
		20.08	20.18	20.43	**
	Sat 23	08.31	08.41	09.06	***
		20.56	21.06	21.31	***
	Sun 24	09.18	09.28	09.53	***
		21.43	21.53	22.18	**
	Mon 25	10.04	10.14	10.39	**
	22.28	22.38	23.03	*	
Tues 26	10.49	10.59	11.24	*	



NRA

National Rivers Authority

Severn-Trent Region

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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